

APPENDIX 15 -- CLARIFICATION OF WATER QUALITY STANDARD FOR SUSANVILLE PORTION OF ALTERNATIVE 5

During the development of the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 5), the Susanville RAC requested that the water quality standard as written in Chapter 2 be kept brief, but that a complete description of the standard be given in an appendix. Therefore, this appendix is the complete text of that standard, and describes how that standard should be interpreted and implemented.

Standard:

Surface and groundwater complies with objectives of the Clean Water Act and other applicable water quality requirements, including meeting the State standards within the respective boundaries of the States of California and Nevada.

Management Objective: For water bodies, the primary objective is to maintain the existing quality and beneficial uses of water, protect them where they are threatened (and livestock grazing activities are a contributing factor) and restore them where they are currently degraded (and livestock grazing activities are a contributing factor). This objective is of even higher priority in the following situations:

- (a) where beneficial uses of water bodies have been listed as threatened or impaired pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act;
- (b) where aquatic habitat is present or has been present for Federal threatened or endangered, candidate, and other special status species dependent on water resources; and,
- (c) in designated water resource sensitive areas such as riparian and wetland areas.

Meaning That:

BLM will, pursuant to the Clean Water Act:

Maintain the physical, biological, and chemical integrity of waters flowing across or underlying the lands it administers;

Protect the integrity of these waters where it is currently threatened;

Insofar as is feasible, restore the integrity of these waters where it is currently impaired;

Not contribute to pollution and immediately remedy any pollution resulting from its actions that violates applicable California (including the requirements identified in Regional Basin Plans), Nevada or Tribal water quality standards or other applicable water quality requirements (e.g., requirements adopted by SWRCB or RWQCB in California, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, or US EPA pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act or the Coastal Zone Reauthorization Act).

Be consistent with the non-degradation policies identified in the Regional Basin Plans in California and non-degradation policies applicable to Nevada.

Work with the states (including the Regional Water Quality Control Boards in California) and USEPA to establish appropriate beneficial uses for public waters, establish appropriate numeric targets for 303(d)-listed water bodies, and implement the applicable requirements to ensure that water quality on public lands meets the criteria for the designated beneficial uses of the water.

Reasonably implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) approved by the SWRCB and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to protect and restore the quality and beneficial uses of water, and monitor both implementation and effectiveness of the BMPs.

As Indicated By:

- * The following do not exceed the applicable requirements: chemical constituents, water temperature, nutrient loads, fecal coliform, turbidity, suspended sediment, and dissolved oxygen.
- * Achievement of the standards for riparian, wetlands, and water bodies.
- * Aquatic organisms and plants (e.g., macroinvertebrates, fish, algae and plants) indicate support for beneficial uses.
- * Acceptable results from implementation and effectiveness monitoring or changes in management to address deficiencies identified by such monitoring.

Exceptions:

Within California, impoundments (stock ponds) and water troughs that have a sustained discharge yield of less than 200 gallons per day to surface or groundwater. Other water bodies may be excepted from meeting drinking water requirements as per SWRCB Resolution No. 88-63.

Within Nevada, livestock water facilities or impoundments specifically developed for that use are excepted as per Nevada Water Quality Regulations 445A.120 from meeting any stricter water quality standards than for the purposes of livestock water.